

Decision Memo
Schlumberger Recreation Residence
USDA Forest Service

Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, White River National Forest
Pitkin County, Colorado
Township 8 S, Range 85 W, Section 25

Decision

I have decided to authorize the installation of a berm at the Schlumberger Recreation Residence Cabin. The cabin is in the Kobey Park and Cow Camp area. The berm will be placed perpendicular to the road to divert water away from the cabin. It will adhere to the Forest Service project design criteria included as Appendix A.

Purpose and Need

The Permittee's structure has been impacted by water and sediment delivered from the access road due to erosion from the road. Over time, drainage from the road has caused a build-up of sediment on the up-hill side of the cabin. To mitigate this problem, a berm will be built to divert water away from the cabin.

Reasons for Categorical Exclusion

I have concluded that this action can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment as it is a routine activity within an approved category of exclusion under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3): Approval, modification, or continuation of special uses that require less than 20 acres of NFS lands and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment. The following resource conditions were considered as part of this analysis:

Findings for each of the 7 extraordinary circumstances 36 CFR 220.6(b):

- (i) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species: The District Biologist determined that there are no anticipated effects to federally listed species that may be present within the project area.
- (ii) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds: There are no flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds present within the project area.
- (iii) Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation areas: The project is not located at any of these designated areas.
- (iv) Inventoried roadless area or potential wilderness area: None are present.
- (v) Research natural areas: None are present.

- (vi) American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites: Forest archaeological staff determined there were no known American Indian religious or cultural sites present in the project area.
- (vii) Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas: The Forest archaeological staff determined that there are no known archaeological or historical sites that will be negatively affected by the implementation of this decision. However, if new archaeological sites are found or located as a result of project implementation, the activity shall cease in the area until Forest archaeological staff evaluate the site and propose mitigation.

Interested and Affected Agencies, Organization, and Persons Contracted

The proposal was developed in cooperation with Carter Schlumberger, cabin owner, after he submitted a cabin modification request. In addition, my Recreation/Special Uses Staff presented the project to WRNF resource specialists via email on March 22, 2021. Informal scoping in the field was done with the Forest Hydrologist and Soil Scientist on June 22, 2021. No additional comments were received from specialists.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Consistent with Management Plan

This decision is consistent with the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as required by the National Forest Management Act. The Management Area (MA) is designated as 5.4 Forest Flora and Fauna Habitats. The project was designed to conform to the Forest Plan. Standards and guidelines will be applied as appropriate to meet Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired conditions. The project site and anticipated area of impact falls within a previously disturbed parking area.

This decision is compliant with the Endangered Species Act. The wildlife biologist determined that there are no anticipated effects to federally listed species that may be present within the project area.

This decision is compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act. Forest archaeological staff determined there were no known archaeological or historical sites as well as no American Indian religious or cultural sites that will be negatively affected by the implementation of this decision.

Appeal Opportunities

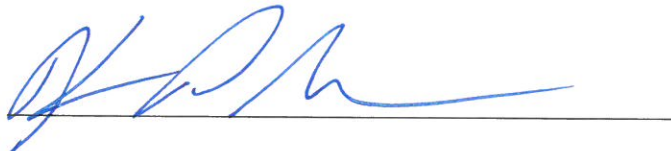
Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (pre-decisional objection process) (Agriculture Act of 2014, Subtitle A, Sec. 8006)

Implementation Date

This project may be implemented upon signature of this Decision Memo and when ground conditions warrant.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Mary Flynn, Developed Recreation Manager, 970-618-4074; mary.flynn@usda.gov.



Kevin Warner
DISTRICT RANGER

9/30/2021

Date

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Appendix A: Project Design Criteria for Berm Construction and Maintenance

- 1) Equipment shall not be moved into project area without having first taken reasonable measures to make sure it is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain noxious weed seeds.
- 2) Remove and stockpile topsoil separately from sub soil. There is approximately 12 inches of suitable topsoil within the area to be excavated. Re-grade excavation location after subsoil is removed and apply topsoil to the berm.
- 3) All ground disturbance shall be revegetated with a native seed mix recommended by the Forest Botanist.
- 4) Grading and earthmoving activities without proper erosion control measures may result in gullies, washouts, or other unwanted erosion conditions. Proper erosion control measures are recommended during and after construction implementation. Apply erosion control blanket over berm to decrease erosion, promote seed germination, moisture retention, and protect seeds from wildlife.
- 5) Maintain the berm by keeping it clear of debris and utilize this design criteria in the future if needed to reconstruct the berm due to long term erosion.